

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

SWARMS VS. HONEY.

Swarming is non-compatible with the largest honey production. When swarming occurs, the working force is divided and the increase in number of colonies is paid for in a smaller crop of honey secured.

Bees store honey much more willingly in broad deep combs than they do in the little square or oblong pound section boxes and for this reason nearly twice the amount of honey can be secured from colonies run for extracted honey than from those run for comb honey, according to Lloyd R. Watson, bee specialist for the extension service of Connecticut Agricultural College at Storrs. On account of this aversion of the bees to section boxes, they have to be forced or crowded in the hive to induce them to enter the sections, but unfortunately this crowding of the bees is directly conducive of swarming.

While working for comb honey one super is enough to put on at a time, but when working for extracted honey two or three supers may be added at once, and the empty space at the top of the hive combined with a wide entrance at the bottom affords ventilation which stimulates the bees to increased activity. If weak colonies are given too much super room at once they may swarm.

It is an established fact that young queens are less prone to swarm than old ones. For this reason all queens except breeding queens should be superseded every year. Hives should never be exposed to the direct heat of the sun but should be shaded by trees, arbors or sheds.

ONION THRIPS.

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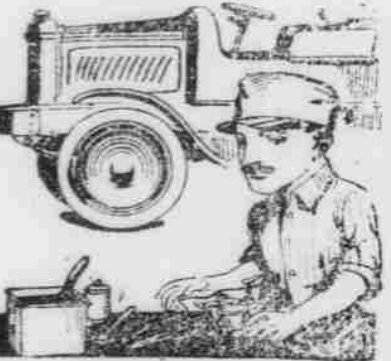
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epidemic from green onion leaves, causing them to dry white and die. The adult is one twenty-fifth of an inch long. Squash cucumbers and cabbage are sometimes injured by this species.

This is a difficult pest to control. Spraying with nicotine may be practiced in small gardens but is not very effective. Burning the tops and refuse on the field, and burning over the grass land around the field to kill the overwintering adults is more effective than any form of spraying, especially in large areas.—G. H. Lamson, Professor of Entomology, Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs.

BORERS IN CORN.

There is considerable injury to corn this season in certain parts of the state, by larvae feeding on the leaves at the whorl, or boring downward in the stalk.

Most of this injury seems to be caused by the common stalk borer, *Papaipema niteles* Guen., but in some cases four or five different species are concerned. The lined corn borer, *Hadenia fraxillea* Grote, which has made its appearance in New York state, has been found in two fields in Connecticut. The stalk borer and the lined corn borer are both native insects and are distinct from the corn ear worm, *Heliothis obsoleta* Fabr., which attacks the ears later in the season. A green larva is also present in some localities causing injury similar to that of the stalk borer and the lined corn borer.

On account of the serious menace of the European corn borer, *Pyrausta nubilalis* Hüb., now present in Eastern Massachusetts and Eastern New York state, and suspected of occurring in Connecticut, though proof has not yet been obtained, a special effort will be made to examine corn fields this summer.

The entomological department of the Agricultural experimental station at New Haven is making a study of these corn borers and other insects attacking corn in Connecticut. In order to aid this investigation, reports of injury when possible, accompanied by specimens enclosed in a strong box should be sent to W. E. PRITTON, State Entomologist, New Haven, Conn.

FARM NOTES.

Of the general crops grown in Connecticut, the hay acreage is by far the largest. In 1918 there were 401,500 acres of hay, and but 132,600 acres of corn, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat and wheat.

It is an excellent investment to have a supply of hay caps on the farm. The number should be sufficient to care for one or two days cutting. A rain on nice clover hay causes considerable loss of nutrients. The caps if well cared for last a long time. The saving in the hay will soon pay for them. Hay caps are a means of insurance. They are not always needed, but when the need arises it is then too late to secure them.

Dairying is one of the most important farm enterprises in the state of Connecticut, as milk cows constitute according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Crop Estimates, 23 per cent. of all the live stock of the state.

SUMMER CROPS IN FRAMES.

Instead of allowing the empty hotbeds and cold frames to become choked with weeds, and after the spring crops have been removed they should be refitted for summer use. The soil in the frames is generally rich or heavily manured and will produce luxuriant crops. The seeds will not be needed in growing the summer crops and should be carefully stored away. One of the best summer crops adapted to the frames is celery, especially the large green varieties like the *Winterset*. The seedlings may be set during June, the seedlings having been started at least two months before. Spacing 6x3 inches apart, over 20 plants may be set in a 6x3 foot bed. A great advantage in this scheme is that the celery may be blanched and stored for winter use by simply placing the covers over the frame in the late fall and covering this with straw or some other material to exclude light.

Eggplants, peppers and bush squash may also be grown in these frames. In the spring after the tomato plants have been removed, three or four plants of each of the above may be set in the frame. Onions and sweet corn, with pole beans, will also thrive in the old hotbed or empty cold frame.

VALUE OF FEEDS.

According to figures furnished by the Connecticut Experiment Station the weight of a quart of feed is as follows: Cottonseed meal, 1.5 pounds; linseed meal, oil process, 1.1 pounds; gluten meal, 1.1 pounds; wheat bran, 0.5 pounds; gluten feed, 1.2 pounds; wheat middlings, coarse, 1.1 pounds; wheat middlings, fine, 1.1 pounds; mixed wheat feed, 0.5 pounds; rye bran, 0.5 pounds; oats, 1.2 pounds; rye bran, 0.5 pounds.

DEEP PLOWING.

The average depth of plowing in Pennsylvania is 5.7 inches in fall work and 6.5 inches in spring. Only in four other states is the average depth of fall plowing as great as that of this state. In the spring, the average depth of plowing is 5.7 inches. The average number of horses used per plow on the farms of Pennsylvania is 2.2.

QUALITY OF SOILS.

In this time of need for food products and a rush for land to cultivate in garden plots as well as in large fields due consideration should be given to the quality of the soil to be handled. While there is an abundance of good land available, still it is true that many new areas which may be taken up will scarcely make a fair return for the seed and effort expended on them. Wet, spongy land in which water stands for a good part of the season, loose drifting sand, open, stony gravel, very thin stony soil, any of these conditions should be generally avoided.

WOOL SALES SUCCEED.

Wool sales held late in June by the Connecticut Sheep Breeders' association proved successful beyond expectations. Nearly 25,000 pounds of wool were sold co-operatively, bringing the farmers in nearly every instance a substantial margin above the local prices.

Sales were held at Willimantic June 23, Middletown June 25, and Torrington June 27. At Willimantic the sales amounted to about \$5,000, and at Torrington about \$7,000.

Prices ranged from 35 to 60 cents a pound, depending upon grading. This range of prices represented an increase over the advertised prices when the sales were called. Three-fourths of the wool brought from 58 to 60 cents a pound.

The sales were managed by A. G. Skinner, sheep specialist for the extension service of Connecticut Agricultural College at Storrs. The wool was bought by a Worcester, Mass., concern.

IMPORTED CABBAGE WORM.

The common, small white butterfly seen flying over the cabbages is the parent of the velvety green worms that do so much destructive work to the leaves of cabbages.

The eggs are laid singly on the under side of leaves. The larvae (worms) feed ravenously for about two weeks,



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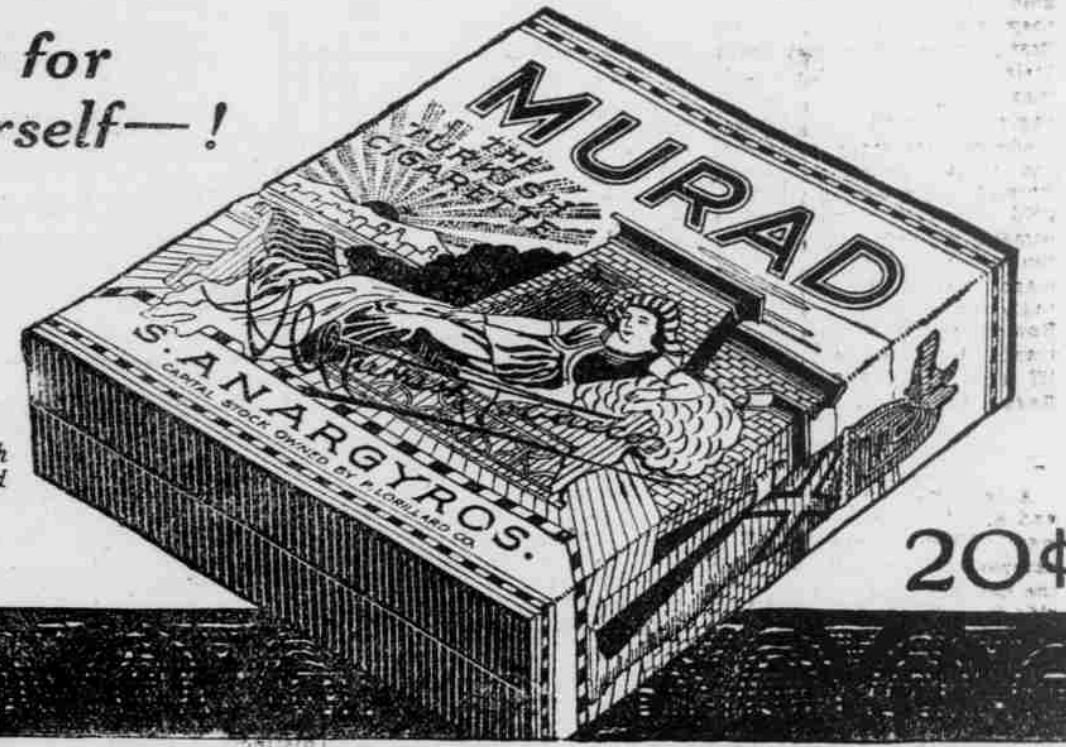
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becoming about one and one-quarter inches long. Then they form a chrysalis in which they spend from one to two weeks, finally becoming yellowish-white butterflies with two or four black spots appearing on their sex. This life cycle takes from three to five weeks and there are three generations every summer in Connecticut.

Unheeded plants may be sprayed with lead arsenate and water, one ounce in one gallon, or dusted with the dry or powdered lead arsenate. It is safer to use insect powder or heliothrips on headed plants. Hand picking may be practiced if one has only a few plants.—G. H. Lamson, Professor of Entomology, Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs.

VALUE OF STAKING TOMATOES.

For best results, tomato plants should be trained upon some support. Usually a short stake is used. By staking tomato plants may be placed closer together, which makes it possible to have a greater crop on a smaller area. Besides staking, this work, as quality, as the fruit does not come in contact with the earth and will remain clean and free from rot. The plants may be trained to a single stem by pinching out all the shoots except the central leader, but for general purposes and for securing a big yield it has been found better to let plants grow unpruned.

Where stakes are used for tomatoes the plants can be set 24x36 inches apart, and soon after transplanting the stakes should be placed in position, setting one near the base of each plant. For this purpose poles not more than two inches in thickness and six feet in length will be found excellent, and they can be kept for this purpose from year to year. They should be driven in the ground a foot or more, so that windstorms and the weight of the plant will not topple them over. To more quickly perform this work, a crowbar should be driven in the ground to the required depth and by working from side to side a hole can be made large enough to receive the stake. Strong, rough twine should be used to tie the plants to the stakes. The twine should be made about one foot from the ground and successive ties 10 to 12 inches apart, as the growth of the plant requires this support.

In tying up a plant make a double tie to the stake, then draw all the stems and branches of the plant within a rather loose loop made with the two ends of the string.

SUNFLOWERS MAKE VERY GOOD SILAGE.

Montana farm bureaus carried on numerous crop demonstrations last year and did notable work with sun-

flowers as a silage crop. Sunflowers under dry-land conditions made an average return of 10.25 tons of silage an acre, and under irrigated conditions 23 tons an acre. These demonstrations showed that sunflowers yield almost three times the tonnage of corn under similar conditions. This kind of feed is particularly adapted to high valleys which do not produce abundant corn. The quality of the sunflower silage has been demonstrated to be good.

Farm bureaus in Montana are the official organization through which the state experiment station distributes pure and valuable seed which it has developed and increased. These organizations afford a reliable means whereby the experiment station can keep in touch with certain varieties of grain of proven worth. By working through the bureaus it is possible to secure an equitable distribution over the entire state.

CUTTING ALFALFA AT WRONG TIME CAUSES HEAVY LOSS.

By P. G. HOLDEN.

Failure to make a success of alfalfa growing may be due to any one of several things. Most of us know that alfalfa will not do well in poor soil; we know that the soil may need to be inoculated; we know that alfalfa should be properly cultivated. But many of us do not realize that alfalfa should be cut at exactly the right time, or else we do not know when the right time is.

Failure to cut alfalfa at the proper time has ruined thousands of fields and discouraged thousands of farmers.

These two things should always be borne in mind:

If we cut alfalfa too soon, the plants become yellow and sickly; they do not do well and weeds and grass spring up and smother them. It may be that the sap runs in the roots and the bacteria die.

If we cut alfalfa too late the tops of the new shoots are clipped off by the mower. The new crop then has to make another start. This puts it back and often weeds and grass grow up and choke it out.

There is but one way to tell when to cut alfalfa. We must watch for the new sprouts and pay no attention to the blossom.

inch or two long, but they will grow so rapidly that in three or four days they will be several inches long and it will then be too late to cut the alfalfa without doing injury to the next crop.

SOUTH WINDHAM

George Hatch has been ill at his home with indigestion.

Miss Fannie Smith is the guest of Mrs. Hazel B. O'Connell, of New London.

Misses Maud, Helen and Muriel Smith are visiting their uncle, Benjamin Smith, of Waterbury.

Albert Oman spent his vacation in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis and sons and Miss Mary Blinn, left last week for two months' stay at Quenochontaug.

Miss Blinn had the misfortune to step on a rusty nail. She was taken to Willimantic to her sister's home for medical treatment and Mrs. Mary Crane assisted with the care of her.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Lathrop, of Windham were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Guilford Smith on a motor trip over the Mohawk Trail, Thursday and Friday.

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James Steadman is the guest of his son, Joseph Steadman, of Westerly.

John Paul Dunleavy, principal of a school in Providence, his sister, Miss Nellie Dunleavy, who teaches in East Orange, N. J., Miss Mary Dunleavy, who is in charge of the same place, and Miss Laura Dunleavy, who teaches in Greenwich, Conn., have opened their home in the village for their summer vacations.

Robert Mitchell of Brattleboro, Vt., spent the Fourth with his family, who are visiting Mrs. Mitchell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Manning.

Miss Mary Scranton, of Westford, and her sister, Elea, of Westford, are so Hazel of Stafford Springs, were home for the Fourth.

Charles Heel carried a party of friends in his truck to the dance in Eastford, Thursday night.

Major John Buckley, of Hartford, spent the week end at home.

Lewis Scranton visited relatives in Norwich the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Palmer of Hartford entertained friends from Hartford and the Mary homestead the first of the week.

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